

**State of Nevada**  
**Board of Examiners for Marriage & Family Therapists & Clinical Professional Counselors**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Friday, September 20, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.**

Videoconference Locations

Northern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services  
2655 Enterprise Road  
Reno, Nevada 89512

and

Nevada Division of Child and Family Services  
6171 W. Charleston Blvd., Building 8  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89146

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**Please Note:** The Board may (a) address agenda items out of sequence to accommodate persons appearing before the Board or to aid the efficiency or effectiveness of the meeting; (b) combine agenda items for consideration by the public body; and (c) pull or remove items from the agenda at any time. The Board may convene in closed session to consider the character, alleged misconduct, professional competence or physical or mental health of a person. (NRS 241.020, NRS 241.030).

Public comment is welcomed by the Board. Public comment will be limited to five minutes per person and comments based on viewpoint will not be restricted. A public comment time will be available prior to any action items on the agenda and on any matter not specifically included on the agenda prior to adjournment of the meeting. At the discretion of the President, additional public comment may be heard when that item is reached. The President may allow additional time to be given a speaker as time allows and at his/her sole discretion. (NRS 241.020, NRS 241.030) Prior to the commencement and conclusion of a contested case or a quasi-judicial proceeding that may affect the due process rights of an individual, the Board may refuse to consider public comment. (NRS 233B.126)

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**Action by the Board on any item may be to approve, deny, amend or table.**

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1. Call to Order, roll call, Confirmation of Quorum. Meeting called to order at 9:03 AM.

Steve Nicholas, Marta Wilson, Erik Schoen, Adrienne O’Neal, Hal Taylor, John Nixon arrived at 9:05 AM.

Staff present: Henna Rasul – Senior Deputy Attorney General, Lynne Smith, Sherry Rodriguez, Joelle McNutt.

Members of the public: Yvonne Hart, Adam Duckro in the south, no public members in the north.

2. Public comment

No vote may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to public comment until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. (NRS 241.020)
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Dr. Yvonne Hart is in Las Vegas, at the Grief and Loss Center, and she spoke regarding the difficulties that two of her six Interns are having with passing the national MFT exam. They have each taken the exam four times. She had spoken at a meeting earlier this year and understood that it was too expensive for the State to change the required MFT licensing exam. However, she has been finding out that more and more people are struggling with this exam and that people are not getting licensed. She has a concern

about this because it's becoming an ethical issue – someone is making a lot of money; her interns are becoming depressed. They are skilled clinicians and some people who are good test-takers are getting a license when she wouldn't even give them a license. She's wondering what the Board is going to do about this problem? How can we resolve it? Because if 50% of the population are not passing this exam, then it's not really about a tool. She has put together a study group on Saturday mornings for her interns; they look at all the study materials by all of the companies. And what they're finding out is that what they are studying is not on the exam. The exam is something else. And now she is being asked "where do I go to study what's on the exam?" So, she is wondering about the content validity of this tool and how they are trying to get their interns licensed. Clearly, it is a money-maker. She knows what it takes to get licensed but doesn't feel that she could even pass the exam at this stage in her life because her brain doesn't function that way anymore. She doesn't know how the ones that pass are doing it as they are in their 50s, hedging their 60s. She is wondering what is going to be done about that. Thank you for this opportunity and for allowing her to express her concerns.

Adam Duckro, CPC Intern, is an intern with Dr. Hart. He stated that the MFT exam is not a headache for him personally but his colleagues who are trying to pass the exam seem to have significant challenges. He feels fortunate to be seeking CPC licensure as that exam is a lot more applied toward actual practice, particularly within scope of practice. He has studied with some of his MFT colleagues and a lot of the items seem to be within the realm of psychology. He, as a recent intern, has seen the discrepancy between the two tests and believes that the CPC national exam is much more useful in practice.

3. Public hearing on proposed regulations. The Board will receive and hear all public comment regarding LCB file number R095-19 for changes to Chapters 641A of the Nevada Administrative Code.

No public comment was given.

4. Consideration of public comment and possible adoption of LCB file number R095-19. The Board will consider fully all public comment received regarding the proposed regulatory changes under agenda item 3. This agenda item may involve the Board proposing changes to the regulation after consideration of all public comments and determine whether to adopt the regulation.

Steve reported that the LCB had made a change to the Suicide Prevention continuing education credits back to two (2) due to section 8 in SB37. He stated that he had a series of emails with one of the attorneys at the LCB who reported that the Board could vote to change that if they wished. He requested that the change be made back to four (4) continuing education credits for Suicide Prevention before the R051-19 be sent to LCB for finalizing. Hal made the point that changing it to four is consistent with NRS due to moving to a biennial renewal period.

Motion made by Erik to approve the meeting minutes as amended; Adrienne 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved unanimously.

5. Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding review and approval of minutes of August 23, 2019 meeting.

Several changes were suggested to the August 23, 2019 meeting minutes. Erik's name was spelled inconsistently throughout the Meeting Minutes and Marta requested a clarification to her statement in item number 13, Board Member Comments. Hal requested that a one-sentence summary of each of the charges made against and found valid in the Gill disciplinary hearing be added to the minutes.

Motion made by Erik to approve the meeting minutes as amended; Marta 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved unanimously.

6. Review/decision regarding the following licensees who have petitioned the Board to be Primary Supervisors for Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) and Clinical Professional Counselor (CPC) Interns:

Supervision Applicant	AAMFT Approved Supervisor or CCE Approved Certificate/Supervisor Course	Transcript of 45-hour Graduate-level Supervision Course	Mentor Signature of Supervisory Experience	Mentor Contract
Crystal Jaquette, MFT	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes
Dr. Juanita Chapman, MFT	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes
Robin Hostetler, MFT	No	No	No	No
Lori Kimmerly, MFT	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mary Nedela, MFT	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A

Erik cited NCA641A.182 – Approved supervisor qualifications. He stated that having the certificate for either an AAMFT Approved Supervisor or the NBCC National Certified Supervisor will automatically grant the supervisor applicant Nevada-approved supervisor status. Marta described how she got Nevada-approved-Supervisor status which involved the coursework, obtaining and working with a Supervisor mentor, and working with licensed Interns as an AAMFT Supervisor Candidate. Erik stated that a person wanting to become a Nevada-approved Supervisor could start as a Secondary Supervisor and/or do co-supervision with someone who is already approved. Marta reiterated that licensees must be fully licensed for three years before becoming approved Supervisors.

Discussing supervisor applicants, Steve requested that the Board table the discussion of Primary Supervisor requests until they provide final documentation of being AAMFT Approved Supervisors.

Steve made a motion to table Ms. Jaquette’s application to be an approved Supervisor until which time she provides her AAMFT Approved Supervisor certificate; Hal 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved unanimously.

Steve made a motion to table Dr. Chapman’s application to be an approved Supervisor until which time she provides her AAMFT Approved Supervisor certificate; Erik 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved unanimously.

Erik made a motion to deny Ms. Hostetler’s application to be an approved Supervisor based on lack of sufficient documentation; Hal 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved unanimously.

Erik made a motion to approve Ms. Kimmerly’s application to be an approved Supervisor since she provided her AAMFT Approved Supervisor certificate; Marta 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved unanimously.

Erik made a motion to approve Ms. Nedela’s application to be an approved Supervisor since she provided her AAMFT Approved Supervisor certificate; Marta 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved unanimously.

The Board discussed how a Nevada Approved Supervisor would demonstrate that approval. Adrienne stated that she had an intern move overseas recently and there was a request for documentation. Marta reported that the Drug and Alcohol Board issues a certificate for approved supervisors. The general consensus was that the Board office issue a letter to Nevada-approved-Supervisors confirming their approval and the date.

7. Sherita Nelson petitions the board to be granted her Nevada MFT license

The Board discussed the issues that had led them to deny Sherita Nelson a Nevada MFT license by reciprocity from California at the May meeting due to unprofessional behavior. At that time, there were concerns about the disclosure of issues on her background check and her treatment of office staff. She appealed the denial with the Behavioral Health Commission who found that the claims made by this

Board were unsubstantiated. When considering the application based on the materials submitted and new information, the Board must determine if Ms. Nelson would be granted a Nevada MFT license. Erik made a motion to approve Ms. Nelson's application for a MFT license; Marta 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved unanimously.

The Board took a break at 9:55 PM and reconvened at 10:06 AM.

8. The board wishes to speak with Debora Jette regarding her intern practicing with a lapsed license – This item was removed from the agenda prior to the meeting being called to order.
9. Dr. Lynne Smith, Executive Director, is requesting discussion regarding the possible substitution of the NCMHCE exam for the MFT exam for MFT Interns in extenuating circumstances due to the poor national passing rates which are a huge barrier to licensing otherwise competent clinicians.

Discussion ensued which explored the challenges presented by low passing rates for the AAMFTRB national exam. Hal stated that under NRS 641A.230.1, that MFTs must pass a written exam given by the Board and subsection 2 states that the BoE would accept results from the national AAMFTRB exam. Erik stated that the BoE has the authority to designate the NCMHCE as a test that MFTs could take and that extenuating circumstances are not necessary. Marta stated that if we were to allow MFTs to take the NCMHCE exam in Nevada, it may not be accepted in other states were the MFT to leave Nevada. Steve reported that he feels strongly that MFTs should be tested in a systemically-oriented exam. Hal stated that the low passing rate on the AAMFTRB exam is not a reason unto itself for rejecting the exam. Steve recommended that the board members educate themselves about if there are other potential MFT exams before they discuss this in the future. Eric suggested that board members familiarize themselves with the NCMHCE exam to get a sense of what it covers and that when we meet again in November to further explore whether this one exam represents a viable option to the national MFT exam. Marta suggested that as a state board, we might want to consider setting our own passing rate on the MFT exam rather than the cohort-normed national passing rate.

10. Report from President

Steve reported he was excited with the passage of R095-19 that the board will be fully funded, streamlined, and he is happy

11. Report from Treasurer

Erik reported that Lynne was taking over the bookkeeping and she could give us an update.

12. Report from Executive Director

Lynne reported that the office had survived the intense volume of mail from the recent Intern reporting period. She stated that most of the Wells Fargo banking issues will be resolved once forms signed today by various Board members are returned to WF. Tracey Bookkeeping has turned over the QuickBooks dataset and only a few year-end journal entries will be needed and then all the transactions since 6/30/19 will be entered. She stated that we should be able to produce monthly financial statements beginning in October 2019. She reported that Rich Sturek is anticipated to see a demo of our back-office portal using our data today hopefully with the system going online no later than mid-to-late October. Online renewals, new applications (including reciprocity applications), and license verifications will be provided in the initial launch of the portal.

13. Report from Deputy Attorney General

Nothing to report.

14. Board member comments

Erik commented on how momentous it is approving these NAC changes. He stated how important it will be moving forward to review BoE financials regularly and review the NAC every couple of years to stay

on top of needed changes. That these current changes allow the BoE to not only support the public but to help advance mental health needs in Nevada.

15. Discussion regarding future agenda items and future meeting dates:

- a. Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am
- b. Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am (Possible meeting)

16. Public comment.

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No public comments.

17. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:51 AM.